

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 50-51  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2002***

***Safety and Environmental  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**OPR:** OPS1 (M. Paese, Acting)

**Certified by:** OPS (J. McNulty)

**Type of Issuance:** Initial.

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supercedes WSOM Chapter A-46, Issuance 00-12, dated November 13, 2000

1. This policy directive defines the National Weather Service (NWS) Environmental Compliance program. This policy complies with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental compliance requirements, Executive Orders, and Department of Commerce and/or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrative Orders, policies, and guidance documents.
2. The objective of this policy is to establish environmental compliance directives, guidelines, and procedures for all NWS employees and contractors.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
  - 3.1 The Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring implementation of environmental compliance policy NWS-wide.
  - 3.2 The NWS environmental compliance officer is the principal advisor to the AA on environmental issues and is responsible for development, implementation, and administration of the NWS Environmental Compliance program. The NWS environmental compliance officer develops and implements the NWS Environmental Compliance program. The program, as a minimum, includes: establishing environmental compliance directives, guidelines, and procedures, and defining personnel responsibilities for environmental compliance; determining training requirements, planning and coordinating training courses; ensuring Regional/Center/Office Directors are aware of their responsibilities; ensuring the NWS Environmental Compliance program is implemented and evaluated on an annual basis; incorporating environmental compliance requirements into operational procedures; disseminating technical information and providing technical guidelines, lessons learned, and other assistance as appropriate; and interacting with NOAA environmental compliance personnel, as required.

3.3 Regional Directors, National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Director, and NWS Headquarters Office Directors have overall responsibility for implementation of the NWS Environmental Compliance program within their organization and are responsible for: ensuring environmental compliance directives and guidelines are established, implemented and maintained; ensuring personnel understand and carry out environmental compliance responsibilities; and designating an environmental compliance officer and providing leadership and support to the environmental compliance program.

3.4 Regional and NCEP environmental compliance officers: ensure applicable NOAA and NWS directives and guidelines are effectively implemented at field offices and NCEP-wide; develop and disseminate regional/NCEP specific directives, guidelines, and procedures, as necessary; plan and coordinate environmental compliance training of regional headquarters, field and NCEP personnel; maintain an up-to-date list of subordinate organization environmental compliance focal points; research state regulations and local jurisdiction environmental compliance requirements pertinent to NWS facilities and operations; provide technical advice and assistance; maintain and distribute DOC, NOAA, and NWS environmental compliance policies and directives; and coordinate hazardous waste disposal and environmental remediation projects.

3.5 Meteorologists-In-Charge (MIC), Hydrologists-In-Charge (HIC), Officials-In-Charge (OIC), and NCEP Center Directors are responsible for day-to-day implementation of the NWS Environmental Compliance program and: ensure facilities and operations comply with applicable Federal and state regulations, local jurisdiction environmental compliance requirements, and NOAA and NWS directives, guidelines, and procedures; designate environmental compliance focal points and provide support; ensure employees with assigned environmental roles understand and carry out their responsibilities and use pollution prevention measures; minimize hazardous and nonhazardous waste generated by a facility; ensure required permits, test reports, hazardous material disposal certificates, and other pertinent documents are on file; and ensure facility or site modifications are evaluated for potential environmental impacts and relevant documentation is kept on file (e.g., environmental impact statements, categorical exclusions).

3.6 Environmental compliance focal points: assist with day-to-day implementation of the NWS Environmental Compliance program; plan and coordinate environmental compliance training of site personnel; establish procedures to comply with applicable State and local environmental requirements; and promote environmental compliance awareness and pollution prevention behavior among site personnel.

3.7 NWS employees with assigned environmental compliance responsibilities will have a statement included in their personal performance plans addressing these responsibilities.

3.8 Every employee is responsible for protecting the environment. Environmental compliance concerns should be reported to an immediate supervisor or environmental compliance focal point.

4. Compliance with this policy is measured by tracking the number of environmental compliance findings. The result is no findings.
5. This policy directive is supported by references listed in Attachment 1.

Signed

September 5, 2002

John J. Kelly, Jr.  
Assistant Administrator  
for Weather Services

Date

**Attachment 1**

**REFERENCES**

Executive Order 12856, Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know and Pollution Prevention Requirements, October 1978.

Departmental Administrative Order 216-17, Compliance with Pollution Prevention Standards, January 1989.

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards, August 1993.

Executive Order 13101, Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, September 1998.

NOAA Administrative Order 216-17, NOAA Environmental Compliance Program, October 1998.

NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, June 1999.

The Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Protection of Environment.